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(71) Applicant: ASAHI GLASS CO LTD

(72) Inventor: YUKI MASAKI

(22) Date of filing: (54) MANUFACTURE OF SEMICONDUCTOR THIN FILM

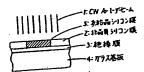
(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To contrive the lowering of a process temperature by determining a scanning velocity at a beam spot diameter × 5,000/sec or above when an amorphous semiconductor thin film is irradiated with laser beams such as Cw Ar laser beams by scanning.

CONSTITUTION: On a substrate 4 made of soda-lime glass, a silicon oxide film 3 is deposited to 2,000 Å at 350°C of substrate temperature by plasma CVD technique using SiH₄ and N₂O as material gases. Subsequently, an amorphous silicon film 2 is deposited to 3,000 A at the same substrate temperature 350°C by using SiH₄ as a material gas. Next, this amorphous silicon film is irradiated with CW Ar laser beams 1 by

scanning. The diameter of a beam spot is $100\mu\mathrm{m}$ and the scanning velocity 1.2m/sec (beam spot diameter x 12,000/sec) and laser power 9W. The diameter of a crystal grain of the obtained polysilicon film 5 is $0.2W3.0\mu m$ and the amorphous silicon film which is dark red and almost opaque at that time becomes to show a light yellow color and an almost transparent state by the scanning irradiation with the laser beams.

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❸発明の名称 半導体障膜の製造方法

②符 頤 昭60−242890

❷出 頸 昭60(1985)10月31日

60発 明 者 格 城 正 記 62出 颐 人 旭 硝 子 株 式 会 社

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明 加 宝

1. 発明の名称

中華保護 原の製造方法

- 2.併許胡求の姦惡
- (1) 幼母性益収上に非品質や腐体及関を財化 し、レーザービームを改亜限制することにより、純非品質率等体体関を多効品で非体験と セナ平等体解図の製造方法において、レー ザービーニの定差速度をビームスポット区× 580G/サロ上として完全なお酢状態に至らし めることなく結晶化させることを特殊とする ラ森体限級の製造方法。
- (2) 非晶質半母体等限が非品質シワコン部分である特別語次の範囲形1項記組の半温体理器の製品方法。
- (3) 市品資本3年日股の秩序を1000人以下とする特許協求の第四第1項尺に第2項配配の半項件移収の製造力法。
- (1) レーデービームの設長が 20000-1000まで

ある特殊通常の預制部1項又は部2項起業の

- (5) レーザービームは GV AIレーザーである谷 新潟水の英国男も明記線の予当体制会製造方 作。
- (8) 絶症性延慢がガラス展展である神許請求の 減関級(現記後の単海体療は製造方法。
- 3. **2907822**9
- 【食事トの対明の行】

本免明は絶縁性基を上の戸部トランジスタ軍の型むに向いられる事事事件側切の型為方法に関するものである。

[発来の技術]

ガラス 基板寺の地線性 表面上に対成されたほ 扱トラングスク(TFT)は、知島ウニレクト のルミネッセンス 平を用いた平面ディスプレイ 放置に望まれているアクティブマトリクスとし でお望まされている。この点段トラングスタを 野水ナる 本の地線性 基板上のや存住 様故とし で、突来、非当式シリコン磁を用いる方法、及

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び多数品シリコン間を用いる万法が損害されて いる。

終上の食品質シリコン膜を摂いる方法では、 プラズマCVD圧さによって、頭の生徒温暖が 一般に \$20で以下で行われ、シランジスタ形成 のプロセス会員の日逢も含めて延見プロセスで もることによって、耐熱禁止の高くない交替を ガラス高級が使え、さらに攻攻数数も大型配し あいので、フォティブマトリタスとしての益坂 の大型之が容易であるとして、有力な方法とさ れている。しかし、本品質シリコン説では残の 本党事が小さいのでアクティブマトラクスとし て充分なとランジステのオン党政を得る為に、 トランジスタ寸法を大さくする必要があり、色 単性や哲素の関ロ率の低下を思くという欠点を おするし、又キャリア争動度が思い為に、シラ ンジスクの動作送院が高く、アクティブマトリ ヶ文として関ロ西実典に限界があること及びア クティブマトリクスの角辺之を四路を同一苗板 上に対皮できないという欠点を打している。さ

以上のみに変えの多差をシリコン図別皮柱では別広温度と使えるガラス塩板の耐熱な変長び 芯をティズの大量化への対応の可能性の面で大きな欠点を申していた。

文、市当の知さ欠点を原決する方法として必 経典上に形成したお品質シリコン既に CV At レーデービームを限制し、多均高シリコン膜と エナ力性が発撃されている。(Applied Physics のに、お品質シリコン数では光辺電性が大きい 力に、トランジスタのオフ亞に元電風が発生 し、光照射下では電視のオン・オフ比が苦しく 電下するという欠点も存在している。

これらの欠点に対して、終その多額品シリコン関を用いる方法が過度されている。多級のリコン関注語な業性でマリなによりが成立して、 国物性として、常品質シリコン関と比較して表 電流、キャリアを動度は「粉は上大すく、光導 世をジ小さいので、より高性機で、前記の浮点 質シリコン関を用いた場合の欠点を解決する方 法として第方的に決計がなされている。

[免労のが決しようとする興曜点]

交流、ガラス重要上への多数品グリコン競形 皮表は、製圧CVD決やプラズマCVD決が閉 いられている。

しかし、これらの形成法では厚皮はの左接は 度が 484で以上のでであり、それより信息点で は井品貴シリコン関しか得られない。従って別

Leiters、vol.38 (1981). 40.8. op 813-615) この場合でも何足非品質シリコン酸の形式程度 を 500で以上とする必要があり、プロセス程度 として 500で以上を必要とするという大きな欠 点もおしていた。

【四注を解決するための手段】

本名明の核皮においては、まず。ガラス森 低、セラミック基数字の絶縁性基皮上にブラズ マCVD法及は光CVD法、低圧CVD法、な チピーム基若法等の力法によって、非品質シリ

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このとも、京品質グリコン低等の京品質学書 体理膜の地位要原を4000人以下とすることが好 ましい連白を取明する。4000人を超える収度で 点、後に分うレーザービーム原射の類。即中に 含まれていた水素のガス栄吸送の影響が強く、 得られる多数品中等体準膜に、キレフ、ボイ

より充分大まくしておくことが行ましいが、大 まくするにつれ必要なレーザー光高のパワーも 地大する為、汲者は 30 ~ 200μ m が選ばれ 1

本及明では、レーザービームの走番速度をビームスポット四×5000/砂以上に適よ。これによりお函質や海体印数は、完全な耐急状態に並らことなく対品化し、多結晶や海体度数とすることができる。

木気明で使用されるレーザービー上は彼及 260003人~1000人程度の座映是扱レーザーによるものがあり、例えば TAGレーザー、Be-Neレーザー、アレキサンドライトレーザー、27レーデー、Krレーザー及びこれらの高気後レーザー、色質レーデー、エキシマーレーザー等が使用できる。中でも用る光味から気外域のレーデーが行ましい。

このシーデービームの走査選択は萌さのねく ビームスポットは×5000/砂以上とされ、連合 を大でもビームスポット及×500001/砂以下と ド、さらに別数学が完生しゃすいのでな改変度 を 506ではととすることでこれを好ぐの変が为 る。これに対しは好1000人以下では、複数系統 を 508で以上とする必要はなく、かつレーザー のパフーの許容異菌が広くなるからである。な か、このお島質率速化原理は 100人未発では 下下化が固想であり、 100人以上の外数とす ることが行ましい。

よって、宇孟氏平可体移版の領原は40001 以下で選立定のることが呼ばしいが、海市2000~ 300011 日間とされればよい。

又、放弃品質半準本部類を形成する際、関 もって地段性温度上に酸化シリコン酸や変化シ リコン関帯の地段観を、地数しておいてもよい。

又、 京島貝 手事体部競は、 予め島駅にベターニング してあってもよい。 次いで、 この 京島 質 干部 体 球 類に レーザービー 4 毛 走 差 服 前 する。 レーザービー 4 の スポット 健 は、 選 宝 足 めれ は 良いが、 後に 厚 成 するトランジスタの 望 辺 寸 故

される。本的、具体的には48m/分以下とされることが行文しい。これにより、非品及や事体 存成は完全な溶散な当に至ることなくお品化 し、分数品半溶水磁器とすることができる。

以下、その境白モレーザービームも老麦頭針 するときの非晶気半導作移動の変化とその時の レーデーペワーとの関係から設切する。まで、 ほる定弦直接において風射シーザーパワーを充 分に小さいほから増加させるとま、家品異学界 休息型が絵画化を示し始めて多花品手導を母説 となる路!のレーザーパワー関値が収わる。こ の窓金な智能状態をほないでの結晶化について ほ装で貸しく選売する。さらにレーデーペクー を増加させると、ついだう選体質質が習過状態 に至り、男2のレーザーパワー男性が良い出さ れる。安定して多岩晶平式体育区とするなに、 この第1、終生の声レーザーパワー瞬間の頭で 風財レーダーメワーを選択する必灸がある。レ かし、走去这贯が遅い場合。この日レーデーズ ワー関係の関係が小さくなり、さらに置くした

これによって、津品賞半導体存頭は完全な容 能状态に至ることなく結晶化し、極く短時間の うちに、多な品半導体存銀となることが出来、 耐効高度の低い変数なガラス基準の使用が可能 であり、かつ、基板ティズの大変化も容易に対 た可能となる。

はする力法なが行われている。命令は、予固化の連貫が減くても18cs/多は下と一般に選く値られ、かつ、他点は上の高温度を要する。 後者の方法では、保持型度が役点より下がるにつれ、本本な長時間の基別例えば 108年編は上を

これに対し、非品質半導体の間にレーデー是 を摂取する場合、非品質学等体の関に移った光 法起路過度化及び問題での結晶化及びこの時の 結晶と始の変生すの現象が存在し、これ等の始 及、定生な経敏状態を終ることなく、及駆反で の結晶をが可能となるものであり、木種明では この仮象を利用して電温高速の結晶化を可能と している。

(n n 1

本会明は、ボタタ本医等の他最後は級上にが はした 非品質シリコン競等の中品質半導体 再顧 へ CM A・レーザーピーよ等のレーザーピー & を よ代照常 することにより、完全な解除状態を基 ることなく 多品質シリコン競子の多語品 半 存住 たお、 お品質シリコン園にレーザービームを 定義限計する数、 お品質や単体印数上に予め無 化シリコン間や客化シリコン優等の絶縁側を即 成し、レーザービームの反射的上頭運は養殖機 等限として用いてもない。

前述の弁品質半導体採頭が、完全なお最故感 を述ないで結品化することについて説明する。

一般にエネルギーを与えて結晶化叉は結晶な 減臭を包ませる場合、溶剤させた後再図化させ る方数叉は、触点以下の高温で変容に並の関係

辞領とすることが可能であり、その時の起係性 高度性既は平均的にはほとんど上昇せず、部分 的れつ調構的にも平容条材料の移販温度よりは るれに低く、さりにも性値として足気されてい る非晶質平風を超騰いわゆる曲点化風度よりも 充分低い温度に止まるため過極性の低い地層性 本種が伊用できる。

さらに記記車品度や森体の間のほぼを 1800人 以下としておくことにより、物理温度が 800つ 収録であっても、レーデービー上限所許の水本 のガス状質出によるキレフ、ボイド、対略年の 欠益の発生を容易に防ぐことが出来る。

又、北辺明における产品質が退体が認めれる 化速度は、一般にレーザーアニール供と呼ばれる方法に見られる容益状態から四化再結晶化する場合に生使して存在に違く、レーザービーム を走受限的する定義可以をピームスポット性× 3060/砂以上にしても結晶化させることが可能 であり、個型でかつ高速で最高化させることが できる。又、この後なを正定度において、安定

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に 少数品半導体が到とすることができるレー ザーパワーの数定マージンが充分なく取れると いうお点も右する。

北兌明ビ京品質で導体な難として弁品質シリコン版への適用が最も誰しているが、 弁品質ゲルマニウム数学の他の弁品質や導体移跡に進用してもよいことはもちろんである。

(寒放何)

斑雑似し

ツーグライムガラスからなる高板上に、SiRe 及び Ke Oの原料ガスを用いてブラズマ C V D 他により、高級及成 350 T で献むシリコン成 (SIO2)を2004人内掛し、これに直接して9174 ガスを原料として阿Cく高級温度 350 T にて押 値位 V リコン競を8000人を強した。次に、この 歩品質ンリニン腫化、CO A)レーデービームを 走近回射する。ビームスポット低は 100 m o 走上速度は 1.2 m / b (ビームスポット低X 12.800/b)、レーデーパワー 9 Y とした。

得られた多結系シリコン酸の鉄晶粒子征は

波求品気シリコン級の設定を5000人とした場合。 CM A:レーザービームを資格例 1 と同じ及作(ビームスポット種 100 x m 。 定基確度 4.2 エブサ、レーデーパワー 9 W) で照射したところ(比切別 5)、33 図に示す知く、 臭結品シリコン図に多数のポイドで及びポイドを建設する議なキレフの発生がみられた。このとま、

0.2 ~ 3.0 kg であった。このとう、暗水色で不遠明に近いが品質シリコン関は、レーザービートの免疫理解により、疾病色で透明に近い 伏塚を急した。

第1回にこの走査状態をボデ英語関であり、 1 は CV Att ー デービーム、 2 はお品質シリコン図、 3 は地段機、 4 はガラス基板を示しており、 型の耐波方向に走置することにより、 身品質 レリコン版の部分が多路品シリコン膜5 に結晶化しているところを示している。

比较保1~7

これに対しレーザーパワーをII単に理念させ た場合(比似例 I)、 字品質シリニン球に反射 快速明に近いがガラス高板上で製造状態を示し て変れで対り、均質を繋状を品していなかっ た。これは、部曲状態に至ったことを呆す。

又、レーデーパワーを7可とした場合(比較 例2)、产品及シリコン貝は限制後、無限前に 比較してわずかに選挙性が報うしたのみで多齢 品シリコン類にはまっていまかった。

レーザーパワーを7甲とした場合(比較例の) は比較例2と同様に油光性の減少の変化を示し たのみで、多差品ンリコン異が原康されなく、 11甲とした場合(比較例7)は、比較例1と同 値の収集状態で見れていることに加え、部分的 には、質の液板も認められた。

安議例と

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お取ら与くする必要があった。

(長明の母菜)

以たの如く本元明は、ガラス基仮等の追集性 延続上の本品質シリコン競牛の非品質予可体質 を走去匹別する数、止走選座をピームスポット ほ×5eee/タ以ととすることにより、ダル気平 四地形図が完全な容数状態に張ることなく結晶 化して、女足して多蛤及予海体通路とせる様に したこと、さらに、前急非品質半導体運費の物 社政ダを4800人以下とすることにより、使用可 後なお品質平当体部数の複数温度として 568℃ 公当に私国化でするため、多数高半導象年酸を が皮する延振立反として従来法に比して 500℃ 京路のプロセス気災として熊型化でき、絶益性 监察材料として遺存のガラス落痕が使え、又、 **近辺サイズの大型化にも充分対応可距となり。** 平硝ディスプレイ装置用のアクティブマトリク スの製造方法において、従来の多数品半導体器 認利住徒によるものより、矛名に使れて帝用な

第2因及び第3回は比較例における多数基シ リコン型の水道を示す雑節国。

2----お品質シリコン鎖

3 ---- 於建設

5----タ姑品シリコン段

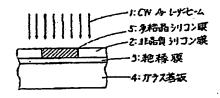
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又、水苑羽による方法によれば、地径性花彦 上の非晶質半導体母類の特定の認分のみを選択 的に多泉西市遺化が誰とすることが可能で、異 一節競性巫根上で非晶質中毒体療器として用い る感分と多数品半線体存成として用いる部分と **も民形史工程及びフェトリングラフィーによる** パターニング工程とを別途に引け知えることな

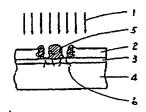
さらに木及兜による方法は、多計構造の辛毒 体装置の製造にも活用せき、質に煮子や回路を えることなく、夕島基本等体容膜を形成し、常 子化することが可用となる。

第1因は本央明の実施例において存品質シリ コン医が安定して多角品シリコン時となること を示す着頭回。

図 i



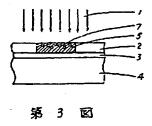
第 2 図





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Masaki Yuijo

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1.Title of the Invention: A Method for Manufacturing A
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Specifications

- 1. Title of the Invention
 A Method for Manufacturing A Semiconductor Thin Film
- 2. Claims
- (1) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film wherein a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is formed on a insulating substrate and the above noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is made into polycrystalline semiconductor thin film by scanning and radiation of a laser beam, the above method being characterized in that the scanning speed of the laser beam is set over beam spot diameter x 500/second, thereby crystallization is made without reaching at a complete melting condition.
- (2) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in claim 1 wherein the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is a noncrystalline silicon thin film.
- (3) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in

- (3) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in claim 1 or 2 wherein the thin film thickness of the non crystalline semiconductor thin film is set below 4000Å.
- (4) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in claim 1 or 2 wherein the wavelength of the laser beam is 20000 to 1000Å.
- (5) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in claim 4 wherein the laser beam is a CW Ar laser.
- (6) A method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film set forth in claim 1 wherein the insulating substrate is a glass substrate.
- 3. Detailed Description of the Invention [Field of the Invention]

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The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a semiconductor thin film to be used in the manufacturing of thin film transistors or so on insulating substrates.

[Prior Art]

There are great expectations for a thin film transistor (TFT) formed on an insulating substrate such as a glass substrate as an active matrix desirable for a plane display apparatus using crystal liquid, electroluminescence and so forth. As a semiconductor thin film on an insulating substrate to form this thin film transistor, a method using a noncrystalline silicone film and a method using a polycrystalline silicon film are conventionally suggested.

In the above first method using a noncrystalline silicone film, film accumulation is made in general at temperature below 300°C by the plasma CVD method or so, and the whole process of transistor formation is made at low temperature, therefore, low-priced glass substrate with not so high heat resistance temperature can be used and further it is possible to make a accumulating apparatus large, accordingly, it is easy to make a substrate as an active matrix large, and it is an effective method. However, the conductivity of a noncrystalline silicon film is small, so as to obtain a transistor ON current enough as an active matrix, it is necessary to make a transistor dimension large, which leads to decline in reliability and pixel opening rate. Since carrier transfer degree is low, transistor action speed is slow and there is a limit in the number of pixels to be controlled as active matrix, and further it is impossible to form scanning circuits around active matrix on the same substrate, which have been problems. Moreover, the optical conductivity of a noncrystalline silicon film is large, as a result, optical current is

generated when a transistor gets OFF and the current ON/OFF rate at beam radiation is conspicuously deteriorated, which has been another problem.

1.7.

To solve the above problems, suggested is the second method using a polycrystalline silicon film. A polycrystalline silicon film is in general formed by use of reduced pressure CVD method, as for its film characteristics, the conductivity and carrier transfer degree both appear larger by one digit in comparison with a noncrystalline silicon film, and optical conductivity is small, therefore, it is possible to form an active matrix with higher performance and higher reliability, as a consequence, this method is now under energetic examinations as the method to solve the problems with the above method using noncrystalline silicon film. [Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

Conventionally, as a method to form a polycrystalline silicon film on a glass substrate, reduced pressure CVD method and plasma CVD method have been employed.

However, in these methods, it is necessary to keep the substrate temperature over 600°C at film formation and at temperature below that, only a noncrystalline silicon film can be obtained. Therefore, it is necessary to use high-priced glass substrate materials such as quartz glass and so having higher heat resistance temperature than that of ordinary soda lime glass. And in this temperature range, it is difficult to make a film forming apparatus by reduced pressure CVD method and CVD method large in comparison with plasma CVD apparatus or so for noncrystalline silicon film at lower temperature range and it is very difficult to make a substrate size large. And also suggested is molecular beam vapor deposition method as a method for forming a polycrystalline silicon film, where a bit lower substrate temperature around 550°C is available, nevertheless, it is far difficult to make the substrate size large than the abovementioned method and an apparatus according to the method will cost high.

As mentioned above, the conventional methods for forming a polycrystalline silicone film have had big problems in formation temperature and glass substrate heat resistance temperature and the countermeasures for large size of substrate.

As a method to solve the above problems, a method is suggested where CW Ar laser beam is radiated onto a noncrystalline silicon film formed on an insulating film and thereby a polycrystalline silicon film is formed. (Applied Physics Letters, vol.38 (1981), No.8, pp 613-615) Even

in this case, it is necessary to make the formation temperature of the above noncrystalline silicon film over 500°C, and also process temperature over 500°C is required, which have been another problem.
[Means to Solve the Problems]

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The present invention has been made so as to solve the problems with the conventional methods for forming a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film on an insulating substrate, accordingly, the process of scanning and radiation of laser beam after forming noncrystalline semiconductor thin film on a insulating substrate made above noncrystalline semiconductor thin film into polycrystalline semiconductor thin film, the above method being characterized in that the scanning speed of the laser beam is set over beam spot diameter x 500/second, thereby crystallization is made without reaching at a complete melting condition.

In a structure of the present invention, first, a noncrystalline semiconductor film represented by a noncrystalline silicon film is accumulated onto an insulating substrate such as a glass substrate, a ceramic substrate and so forth by plasma CVD method or optical CVD method, reduced pressure CVD method, electron beam deposition method and so forth. At this moment, it is preferable to make the accumulate film thickness 4000Å to 100Å. Generally, in formation of a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film by plasma CVD method or optical CVD method with hydrides such as SiH4, Si2H6 and so as raw material gas, when the substrate temperature is low, a great deal of hydrogen is taken into a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film and when the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is crystallized by radiation of a laser beam, hydrogen shoots up to come out, preventing stable crystallization, therefore, dehydrogenation processing may be carried out by making the substrate temperature over 300°C, and keeping the noncrystalline silicon film in inactive gas atmosphere or vacuum at around 350°C after film formation.

The reason why it is preferable to make the accumulated film thickness of noncrystalline semiconductor thin film such as a noncrystalline silicon film and so forth below 4000Å is explained hereinafter. As film thickness exceeding 4000Å, at laser beam radiation to be carried out later, it is strongly influenced by shooting up hydrogen which is included in the film, and obtained polycrystalline semiconductor thin film will occur cracks, voids, and peeling off, so it is necessary to avoid this by making the accumulation temperature over

500°C. On the other hand, at film thickness below 4000Å, there is no need to make accumulation temperature over 500°C and the allowable range of laser power is widened. By the way, it is difficult to make this noncrystalline semiconductor thin film into TFT at below 100Å and it is preferable to make film thickness over 100Å.

Accordingly, it is preferable to appropriately decide the film thickness of a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film below 4000Å, and normally, it may be set from 2000 to 3000Å.

And when the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is formed, an insulating film of oxide silicon film, nitride silicon film or so may be accumulated on the insulating substrate in advance.

And the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film may be patterned in advance. Then, laser beam is scanned and radiated onto this noncrystalline semiconductor thin film. The spot diameter of laser beam may be decided appropriately, but it is preferable to make it larger than the short side dimension of a transistor to be formed later, however, the larger the diameter is the larger the power of laser beam will be needed, so in general the spot diameter is set from 30 to $200\,\mu\text{m}$.

In the present invention, the scanning speed of the laser beam is set over beam spot diameter x 5000/second, thereby the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is crystallized and got into a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film without a complete melting condition.

Laser beam used in the present invention may be by continuous oscillating laser with wavelength 20000Å to 1000Å, for example, YAG laser, He-Ne laser, Alexandlight laser, Ar laser, Kr laser and their high frequency laser, dye laser, eximer laser, and so forth may be employed. Especially preferable is laser from visible light range to ultraviolet range.

The scanning speed of the laser beam is set over beam spot diameter x 5000/second as mentioned above, and in general, it is below beam spot diameter x 500000/second even at most. By the way, in concrete, it is preferable to set it below 40 m/second. Thereby, crystallization of the noncrystalline is made without reaching at a complete melting condition.

The reason is explained hereinafter with the relation between the change of noncrystalline semiconductor thin film at scanning and radiation of laser beam and laser power. First, when the radiation laser power is increased from a sufficiently small value in a certain scanning speed, a first laser power threshold value appears at which the

noncrystalline semiconductor thin film starts crystallization and gets into a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film. Crystallization without a complete melting condition is explained in details later herein. When the laser power is increased further, the semiconductor thin film finally reaches melting condition, and a second laser power threshold value is seen. In order to obtain a stable polycrystalline semiconductor thin film, it is necessary to select radiation laser power at between the first and second laser power threshold values. However if scanning speed is slow, the intervals between the first and second laser power threshold values becomes small and further when the scanning speed is lower, there is no margin for setting of laser power suitable for forming a stable polycrystalline semiconductor thin film. On the other hand, when scanning speed is fast, the laser power threshold values increase more in comparison with the case at low speed and the interval becomes large and the laser power setting margin expands. The reason why the preferable range of scanning speed lies in the relationship with beam spot die ter is that when attention is paid to radiate portion sufficien : smaller than beam spot diameter, in a certain scanning speed, r diation time is in proportion to beam spot diameter and radiation energy is almost in proportion to this radiation time. From the above reason, scanning speed is set at beam spot diameter x 5000/second.

Thereby, the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is crystallized without a complete melting condition, and can become a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film in a short time, consequently, it is possible to use low-priced glass substrate with low heat resistance temperature, and also it is possible to cope with large size substrate.

By the way, when laser beam is scanned and radiated onto a noncrystalline silicon film, an insulating film such as oxide silicon film or nitride silicon film and so forth may be formed on noncrystalline semiconductor thin film in advance, and be used as coating of laser beam or surface protective film.

A noncrystalline semiconductor thin film in the present invention includes not only one having a complete noncrystalline structure in a narrow meaning, but also so-called crystallite semiconductor film, i.e., one having fine crystal particles which is diameter below 50 nm. As a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film in the present invention, a noncrystalline silicon film is most suitable and also may be applied to other noncrystalline semiconductors such as noncrystalline germanium

and so forth. And the beam spot diameter in the present invention means the diameter including over 87% of laser power on a radiation surface.

Now explanation is made on the crystallization of the above noncrystalline semiconductor thin film without a complete melting condition.

In general, when crystallization or crystal particle growth is conducted by giving energy, a method of re-caking after melting or a method of maintaining for a very long time at a high temperature below a fusing point is adopted. In the former method, the speed of re-caking is in general as slow as below 10 cm/second at fastest and a high temperature over melting point is required. In the latter method, as maintenance temperature goes below fusing point, a long time process, for example, over 100 hours, is required.

On the contrary, when laser beam is radiated onto a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film, there exist characteristic optical inductive structural change and crystallization at solid phase and heat generation of reallization and so forth peculiar to noncrystalline semiconductor this dm, as a result, crystallization at high speed is enabled without a complete melting condition, and in the present invention, this phenomena in the present invention is used so as to realize crystallization at low temperature and at high speed.

According to the present invention, a laser beam such as CW Ar laser beam and so forth is scanned and radiated onto a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film and so such as a noncrystalline silicon thin film formed on an insulating substrate such as a glass substrate and so, thereby it is possible to make polycrystalline semiconductor thin film such as polysilicon film without reaching at a complete melting condition and the insulating substrate temperature hardly increase on average and it is far lower than the melting temperature of semiconductor raw material partially and instantaneously, and also is lower than so-called crystallization temperature, i.e., noncrystalline semiconductor thin film temperature defined as a characteristic value, therefore, it is possible to use an insulating substrate with a low heat resistance.

Moreover, the film thickness of noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is set below 4000Å, even if the accumulation temperature is under 500°C, it is possible to prevent cracks, void, peeling off and other failures owing to shooting up hydrogen at radiation of laser beam.

And the crystallization speed of noncrystalline semiconductor thin film in the present invention is far faster than the speed in the case of caking and recrystallization from melting condition seen in what is called laser anneal method and even if the scanning speed for scanning and radiating a laser beam is set over beam spot diameter x 5000/second, crystallization is enabled and it is possible to crystallize in the low temperature and in high speed. And there is another effect that it is possible to take enough wide margin to set laser power with which polycrystalline semiconductor thin film can be attained stably at such a scanning speed.

The present invention is most suitable for application to a noncrystalline silicon film as a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film, however, it is understood well that the present invention may be applied to other noncrystalline semiconductor thin films such as noncrystalline germanium film and so forth.

[Description of Preferred Embodiments]

Prefe Embodiment 1

substrate made of soda lime glass, by use of raw gas of SiH4 and J, and by plasma CVD method, oxide silicon film (SiO₂) was actual at a contract the substrate temperature 350°C, continuously, by use of tw gas of SiH₄ noncrystalline silicon film was accumulated 3000Å in the same way. Then, CW Ar laser beam was scanned and radiated onto this noncrystalline silicon film. The beam spot diameter was 100É m, the scanning speed was 1.2 m/second (beam spot diameter x 12,000/second), and laser power was 9W.

The crystal particle diameter of the obtained polycrystalline silicon film was 0.2 to 3.0 μ m. At this moment, the dark red and almost opaque noncrystalline silicon film turned into light yellow and almost transparent status by scanning and radiation of the laser beam.

FIG.1 is a sectional diagram showing this scanning condition, wherein the code 1 is a CW Ar laser beam, the code 2 is a noncrystalline silicon film, the code 3 is an insulating film, the code 4 is a glass substrate, and scanning is made in backward and forward directions in the diagram and the portion of noncrystalline silicon film is crystallized into a polycrystalline silicon film, the code 5.

Comparative Examples 1 to 7

While, when laser power was increased to 11W (Comparative Example 1), the noncrystalline silicon film was almost transparent after radiation, but it appeared to flocculated and be rough on the glass

substrate and did not show a uniform condition. This means it is reached at melting condition.

And when laser power was increased to 7W (comparative Example 2), the noncrystalline silicon film did not turn into a polycrystalline silicon film though only its light transmission was reduced after radiation.

In the case that on a noncrystalline silicon film formed in the same manner as the preferred embodiment 1, CW Ar laser beam was scanned and radiated 100 µm same as the preferred embodiment 1, 0.20 m/second (beam spot diameter 2000 times/second) as the scanning speed, if laser power was 2.8W (Comparative Example 3), the noncrystalline silicon film did not show polycrystallization though only its light transmission was reduced a bit after radiation, but if laser power was 3.1W (Comparative Example 4), the noncrystalline silicon film appeared flocculation and rough from radiation surface, changed into almost transparent status, which showed that it reached a melting condition and as shown in FIG.2, the surface of the glass substrate appeared concaves and convexes, and partially microcracks, the code6 were seen.

When the thickness of the noncrystalline silicon film was 5000Å, CW Ar laser beam was radiated under the same condition in the preferred embodiment 1 (beam spot diameter 100 µm, scanning speed 1.2 m/second, laser power 9W) (Comparative Example 5), as shown in FIG.3, many voids and many cracks just like linking void, the code7 were seen on the polycrystalline silicon film. At that moment, when laser power was set to 7W (Comparative Example 6), it only showed reduction of light transmission as same as the Comparative Example 2 and polycrystalline silicon film was not formed, while, when laser power was set to 11W (Comparative Example 7), it appeared flocculation and rough as same as the Comparative Example 1, in addition, film was recognized to scatter partially.

Preferred Embodiment 2

At that moment, when the substrate temperature was set as high as 500°C and the film thickness of the noncrystalline silicon film was set 5000Å and CW Ar laser beam was radiated under the same conditions as the above, beam spot diameter 100µm and scanning speed 1.2 m/second, if laser power was 9W, the noncrystalline silicon film similar to that at 9W in the preferred embodiment 1 was obtained, but at 8W only reduction of light transmission was seen as same in the Comparison

Example 2, while at 10W, as shown in FIG.3, many cracks just like linking voids and many voids were seen on the polycrystalline silicon film, as a consequence, polycrystalline silicon film was obtained, however, in comparison with the case shown in the preferred embodiment 1, the setting margin of laser power was small and also it was necessary to raise the temperature.

[Effect of the Invention]

As mentioned heretofore, in the present invention, when a laser beam such as CW Ar laser beam or so is scanned and radiated onto a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film such as a noncrystalline silicon film on an insulating substrate such as a glass substrate or so, scanning speed is set over beam spot diameter x 5000/second, thereby the noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is crystallized without a complete melting condition and becomes stably a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film and further the accumulated film thickness of the above noncrystalline semiconductor thin film is set below 4000Å, thereby it is possible to set the accumulation temperature of usable noncrystalline semiconductor thin film under 500°C, as a consequence, it is possible to use a normal glass substrate as insulating substrate raw material, and also it is possible to cope with the large size of substrate, thus the present invention is very excellent and useful in a method for manufacturing active matrix for plane display apparatuses in comparison with the conventional methods for forming polycrystalline semiconductor thin film.

Moreover, a method according to the present invention, it is possible to selectively make only a specific portion of noncrystalline semiconductor thin film on an insulating substrate a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film, thereby it is possible to easily manufacture a portion to be used as a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film on the same insulting structure and a portion to be used as a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film without separate arrangement of film forming process and patterning process by photolithography.

Moreover, a method according to the present invention may be applied to the manufacturing of multilayer semiconductor devices too and if a method is applied to a noncrystalline semiconductor thin film that is formed at low temperature on insulting film on a semiconductor device which have already formed elements and circuits, it is possible to form a polycrystalline semiconductor thin film and arrange elements without giving heat damage onto elements and circuits formed already

in lower layer.

4. Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG.1 is a sectional diagram showing a noncrystalline silicon film becoming stably polycrystalline silicon film.

FIG.2 and FIG.3 are sectional diagrams showing the conditions of the polycrystalline silicon films in comparative examples.

- 1 CW Ar laser beam
- 2 Noncrystalline silicon film
- 3 Insulating film
- 4 Glass substrate
- 5 Polycrystalline silicon film
- 6 Microcrack
- 7 Void

[FIG.1]

- 1 CW Ar laser beam
- 5 "olycrystalline silicon film
- 2 Noncrystalline silicon film
- 3 Insulating film
- Glass substrate

[FIG.2]

[FIG.3]

Agents

Kenji Motohashi and another

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